

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, and reconsideration and further examination of the subject application, in view of the amendments above and the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courteous personal interview conducted on June 14, 2005. The Examiner's Interview Summary adequately reflects the substance of the interview.

Status of Claims

By the above amendments, claims 1, 22, and 25 have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner during the interview, to positively exclude polypropylene. Maleic anhydride was also deleted from claim 1. Upon entry of the foregoing, claims 1 and 22-26 will remain pending in the application. Each of these claims is under consideration.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement with respect to the claim language "wherein the adhesive material is free of polypropylene." Applicants disagree with the propriety of the rejection for reasons of record. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have deleted the phrase. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 22-26 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Peoples (U.S. Patent No. 4,508,771). For the following reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Peoples does not disclose or suggest each feature of claim 1. For example, Peoples fails to disclose or suggest using an adhesive material consisting essentially of a blend of ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer and another polymer recited in claim 1.

In this regard, it appears that the Examiner is equating the claimed adhesive material with Peoples' thermoplastic barrier coating. However, the barrier coating does not contain a blend of ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer and another polymer recited in claim 1. Peoples discloses that its barrier coating must include an olefinic elastomer component, but the elastomer component is not one of the additional polymers recited in the claimed adhesive blend. Col. 4, lines 18-25 and col. 7, lines 18-21.

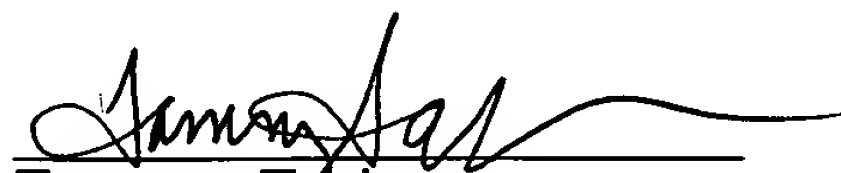
Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Peoples fails to disclose or suggest each feature of the present invention. As a result, there's no *prima facie* case of obviousness, much less one of anticipation. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In summary, Applicants believe the application to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection(s), remove all rejections, and pass the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen Taylor

11/10/2005
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